[English]

Bombay High

*72. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:
SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER pleased to state:

(a) whether the ONGC is inviting global tenders for drilling at Bombay High on Turnkey basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the advantages in this turnkey basis;

(d) whether ONGC propose to have any control in the projects; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Land Reforms

*73. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any comprehensive plan to motivate different State Governments for effective Land Reforms and to set up monitoring machinery to see that every State Government is seriously implementing the same;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU): (a) The Government have taken several steps in this behalf.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(c) The question does not arise.

Statement

The steps include—

(i) Organising Conferences of Revenue Ministers of States/UTs to motivate different State/UT Governments for effective land reforms in the country.

(ii) The Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment collects quarterly progress report on distribution of ceiling surplus land.

(iii) The Department of Programme Implementation publishes monthly progress report on distribution of ceiling surplus land under item No. 5A of the Twenty Point Programme of the Government.

As per List-II of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, the full legislative and administrative responsibility in the subject matter to implementation of the land reforms, land records and land revenue management lies with the State/UT Government. Hence, the role of the Union Government in the concerned subject matter is advisory and coordinative in nature.

Oil Import Bill

*74. SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil Import Bill of the Government is highest as compared to all other years;

(b) if so, the latest position of the ountry's Oil Import Bill and the steps taken by the Government to bring down the Oil Import Bill; and

(c) the details of Oil Import Bill during each year of the Eighth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The import bill depends on the overall consumption, indigenous production and prices of petroleum products and crude oil in the international market. To contain oil import bill, steps are being taken to increase refinery capacity by expansion of existing refineries in public sector and setting up of refineries in joint sector and private sector. Steps are also being taken to increase crude oil production in the country through application of improved technologies, development of new fields, additional development of existing fields and by inviting foreign and private capital in the upstream sector.

(c) The details of oil import bill during each year of VIII Five Year Plan are given below:-

	(Rs. in crores)
1992-93	15,439.18
1993-94	16,221.14
1994-95	16,250.36
1995-96	22,262.92 (Provisional)
1996-97 (April to December, 1996)	23,318.09 (Provisional)

Councils for Science & Technology

*75. SHRI KASHI RAM RANA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Councils set up on the lines of National Council for Science & Technology in the States and Union Territories so far, State-wise, Union Territory-wise;

(b) the aims and objective thereof;

(c) the steps taken for the popularisation of Science & Technology programme in the States and to oversee the working of Non-Government Organisation in each State;

(d) the amount allocated for the development of science and technology to various states and Union Territories during the current plan period;

(e) the percentage of allocation made for rural development programme; and

(f) the achievement made by the scientists in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) to (f) National Council for Science & Technology Communication (NCSTC) is an apex body set up by the Central Government with the objectives of popularising Science and Technology and stimulating scientific temper. At the State/Union Territory level, NCSTC conducts its activities through the State S & T Counciles, and non government organisations. NCSTC does not made allocations State or Union Territory wise. It funds non governmental organisations and State Councils on project mode basis. Over-seeing of such funding is through close monitoring, personal visits, obtaining of utilisation certificates and audited reports. Activities of NCSTC cover both urban and rural areas. Therefore, it is not possible to indicate specific allocation for its activities in the rural areas alone.

The activities of NCSTC, which involves efforts of scientists at various levels, have been reviewed recently and it is felt that a greater awareness about Science & Technology in the Society has been generated.

World Bank Assistance

*76. SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has agreed to help the Government of Andhra Pradesh in Power Sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has given an unqualified commitment to bring about the reforms as suggested by the World Bank;

(d) if so, the main conditions laid by the World Bank for providing loan package to the State Government of Andhra Pradesh; and

(e) whether the Union Government have given its permission to the Government of Andhra Pradesh to get the loan from the World Bank on the above conditions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) and (b). The Government of Andhra Pradesh have proposed to avail World Bank assistance for their power sector. The World Bank has agreed to discuss this with the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

(c) to (e) The details of all the conditionalities would be know only after conclusion of discussions which is currently a preliminary stage. The Union Government could also take a view only thereafter.

[Translation]

Import of Petroleum Products

*77. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the terms and conditions on which import of petroleum products and natural gas is being permitted in the country;

(b) whether Government have been providing any financial assistance to the companies for the import thereof;

(c) if so, the conditions under which the assistance is being provided to these companies; and

(d) the criteria under which the Government have permitted these companies to sell these products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Import of crude oil and petroleum products in India is governed by the EXIM Policy announced by the Government from time to time. As per the current EXIM Policy. Indian Oil Corporation Limited is the canalising agency for import of crude oil and following major petroleum products:

— Aviation Turbine Fuel

— Motor Spirit

— Bitumen (Asphalt) Paving grade

— Furnace Oil (except Low Sulphur Heavy Stock/Low Sulphur Waxy Residue

— High Speed Diesel

— ATF, Bitumen (Asphalt)

Paving Grade and Furnace Oil (except Low Sulphur Heavy Stock/Low Sulphur Waxy residue) are also importable against Special Import Licence. Import of Lubricants/ Greases in consumer packs upto 20 ltrs/20 kgs is also permissible against Special Import Licence.

Import of Naphtha is currently covered in the list of Restricted items for imports in the EXIM Policy and its import is permitted without import licence for petrochemical sector subject to the condition that the return stream of Naphtha should be either sold to the crude oil refinery on